In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method for reducing the amount of transformed, infected or diseased tissue in a patient comprising

contacting the blood, plasma or one or more components of the blood of a patient in need thereof with a column having immobilized therein an effective amount of soluble cytokine receptor inhibitors selected from the group consisting of antibodies or antibody fragments binding to soluble cytokine receptor molecules, ~~or~~ and soluble cytokine ~~receptor~~ molecules, wherein the cytokine receptor is selected from the group consisting of soluble tumor necrosis factor receptor-1 ("sTNFR-1") and soluble tumor necrosis factor receptor-2 ("sTNFR-2"), wherein binding of the ~~antibodies or antibody fragments or~~ soluble cytokine receptor ~~molecules~~ inhibitors prevents ~~the~~ soluble cytokine ~~receptor~~ receptors from binding to ~~the cytokine~~ cytokines in the tissue to be treated, until the transformed, infected, or diseased tissue is reduced in amount compared to the amount present at the time the treatment is initiated.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the tissue is a solid tumor.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the disease is a viral or parasitic disease causing immunosuppression.

Claim 4 (cancelled).

5. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising treating the tissue with an agent selected from the group consisting of anti-angiogenic compounds, procoagulant compounds, cytokines, chemotherapeutic agents, and radiation.

Claims 6-7 (cancelled).

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the cytokine receptor molecules are removed by binding to antibodies or antibody fragments immunoreactive with the cytokine receptor molecules.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the soluble cytokine receptor molecules or antibodies or antibody fragments are immobilized in a filter or column through which the patient's blood, plasma or one or more components thereof is circulated prior to being returned to the patient.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the antibodies are humanized.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 comprising

contacting the blood, plasma or components thereof with antibodies or antibody fragments immobilized in a sterile endotoxin free extracorporeal device.

Claims 12-16 (cancelled).

17. (currently amended) A method of enhancing an immune response in a patient comprising:

a. obtaining whole blood from the patient;

b. separating out the plasma;

c. contacting the plasma with antibodies or antibody fragments specifically binding to ~~a targeted immune system inhibitor~~ soluble cytokine receptor molecules which function as cytokine inhibitors,

d. removing the inhibitor bound to the antibodies from the plasma; and

e. returning the antibody-contacted plasma to the patient.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the antibodies ~~is~~ are immobilized in a solid support or membrane.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the antibodies are recombinant ~~or a binding fragments~~.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the antibodies are in a mixture of antibodies immunoreactive with the targeted immune system inhibitor .

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the patient is human.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the ~~targeted immune system~~ inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of soluble receptors for tumor necrosis factors alpha and beta.